



**Charter Commission Minutes
Regular Meeting
City of Las Vegas Council Chambers
1700 North Grand Avenue
Thursday, August 5, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.**

Call to Order

Chairman Apodaca called the meeting to order at 1:33p.m.

Roll Call

Present

Commission Chair Apodaca
Commission Vice Chair Salazar
Commissioner Phillip Martinez
Commissioner Ludi
Commissioner Einer
Commissioner Matt Martinez

Absent

Commissioner Madrid

Also Present

Darlene Arguello, City Staff

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Apodaca called for a motion to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Ludi made a motion to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Phillip Martinez seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Apodaca called for a motion to approve the minutes.

Commissioner Phillip Martinez made a motion to approve the minutes.

Commission Vice Chair Salazar seconded the motion.

Commissioner Einer stated that amendments needed to be made in regard to adding discussion of the ordinances that needed to be created in accordance with the Charter and the failure of the incorporation of them by previous administration.

Commission Chair Apodaca entertained a motion to approve the minutes with amendments.

Commissioner Einer made a motion to approve the minutes with amendments.

Commissioner Ludi seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Public Input

No public input.

Discussion

1. Review of City Councilor's Proposed Changes

Discussion:

Chairman Apodaca opened up discussion by stating that the Council was very close to the Commission's proposals of increasing the number of Councilor's serving but had differences in regard to the number. They would like to restore the number to eight (8).

Redistricting was brought up and discussion was held in regards to the process. They talked about the term of service and staggering terms.

Commissioner Martinez talked about the process that was in place back when he was in office and stated that there were four wards and two (2) councilors per ward and they were staggered terms. He stated that if there was communication working with eight (8) councilors then it made things easy. He stated that part of the reason that the eight (8) councilors were previously cut down to four (4) was because the community thought that the pay for eight (8) councilors was too costly.

Commissioner Martinez made some suggestions in regards to changing the number of councilors; (1) consider going back and adding an additional councilor and staggering them so they rotate with the Mayor and Judge elections and consider the pay or leave it where it's currently at.

Further discussion was held in regards to the compensation and the impact it has previously had with just four (4) councilors and the impact it would have now if the number was increased. They also talked about a valuation increase similar to the County Commission and how it would provide incentive for growth.

Next item discussed was the elimination of the run-off election and going to a simple majority. Further brief discussion was held in regards to the run-off.

The next item was the Councilors' suggestions on limiting the Mayor's authority to act and appoint the certain positions called for in the Charter.

Chairman Apodaca made a suggestion as a form of compromise to possibly changing the language in the Charter to state that the Mayor shall bring forth three (3) qualified candidates to Council for consideration. The qualifications would be based off of what is set forth in the Charter. He further briefly elaborated on his thoughts and suggestions.

Commissioner Matt Martinez talked about the process that has been taken and bringing forth a one candidate at a time and the process and pressures it causes for both the Mayor and Council. He further elaborated on the issues it can cause for those candidates that are being considered and turned down.

Commissioner Phillip Martinez talked about the interview and hiring process at the County and elaborated further on the issues he's seen and currently sees.

Commission Clerk Darlene Arguello made a suggestion by stating that in order to not take away the power of the Mayor completely, why couldn't the Mayor bring forth a candidate to the Council and have them interview them and do the vetting and background checks prior to bringing them forth for approval and appointment.

Commissioner Ludi stated that she had the same thoughts and added that the same process is taken for superintendents but there has to be three (3) candidates brought forth and they must be published. She further elaborated on the process.

Further brief discussion was held in regards to bringing forth a nomination or bringing up to three candidates. Chairman Apodaca asked if they needed to limit the powers of the Mayor or just give the section more definition.

Commissioner Einer elaborated on previous issues on appointments and placing unqualified individuals in these positions. He further elaborated on previous issues and putting measures into place to prevent them from happening again.

Further lengthy discussion was held in regards to this topic.

Commissioner Matt Martinez made suggestions on appointments of positions: (1) the Mayor can bring forth a candidate from an open process pool of applicants; he stated he understood why the

Mayor would want to bring in someone he knew he could work with. He further elaborated on his previous experiences when he was Mayor.

Further lengthy discussion was held on the process of appointments.

Commissioner Matt Martinez elaborated further on the powers of the Mayor and stated that the Mayor is elected by the community therefore there needs to be a more proactive approach.

Discussion was also held about the Council's inability to place items on the agenda and who would the authority be vested in. Previous discussions were giving the responsibility to the City Clerk. The Commission all expressed their thoughts and concerns with that suggestion.

Commissioner Einer stated that it is not a matter of who but rather a matter of process. He stated that the City Council is already tasked with enacting an ordinance that delineates their own rules and procedures.

Further lengthy discussion was held in regards to the Council's inability or lack of enacting the ordinances and questioned if maybe the Council did not realize their authority in the process.

Chairman Apodaca stated that this needs to be prioritized or addressed in the organizational meeting.

Commissioner Ludi stated that they needed to be holding work sessions. Further lengthy discussion was held.

Commissioner Matt Martinez elaborated on the previous process and the organizational meeting. He stated that a lot of work was done with the Charter but the details were left out.

Further lengthy discussion was held.

Commissioner Ludi asked if the Charter was a working document or if once it's done it's closed and the review of it is not done again for a number of years.

Chairman Apodaca stated that the Charter needs to be revisited through the Commission process to amend and then taken to the electorate and stated that it is not a living document.

Further lengthy discussion was held. Further discussion was also held on the organizational meeting and the process procedures.

Discussion was held on a to-do list with deadlines. Commissioner Matt Martinez elaborated on the organizational meeting and stated that the meeting was to set the direction for Council. He also talked about a Retreat and how it could be helpful to have them prior to having the organizational meeting. He further elaborated on the process previously taken and stressed how important this meeting is to have.

Chairman Apodaca stated that this meeting, specified in the Charter, states that it should take place at the first meeting following the Municipal Election but does not specify when they should meet.

Chairman Apodaca asked if they should provide more information within the organizational meeting like; (1) when they should meet (2) what they should do (3) the processes that should be met and (4) begin the process for adopting an ordinance for rules of the Governing Body.

Further discussion was held on strategic planning and reviewing the purpose and mission.

Commissioner Ludi asked about a binder or book given to the candidates with insights when first running for office. Further brief discussion was held.

Chairman Apodaca asked if there was an ordinance setting forth the rules. Commissioner Einer stated that the process by which an item is placed on the agenda has not been fully defined by ordinance and elaborated on previous particular situations in regards to this issue with prior administration.

Chairman Apodaca stated that their start point would be Section 2.07(A) organizational meeting and providing a defining sentence and providing more clarity as to what exactly happens at the organizational meeting. The term “shall” be implemented and a Campaign and Ethics Board would be the enforcers.

Further lengthy discussion was held in regards to this topic. Discussion was also held as to holding two separate meetings for organization and functions and also for appointments of boards, commissions and committees.

Commissioner Einer stated that right now the terms of the boards, commissions and committees are staggered. Further brief discussion was held on the staggering terms and also on how the Campaign and Ethics Board should have a staggered term opposite of the election so that the Ethics Board is seated at the organizational meeting.

Further lengthy discussion was held and also on the term “shall”.

Commissioner Einer stated he could compile all the “shalls” and the “have nots” for review at the next meeting. Chairman Apodaca then tasked Commissioner Einer with eliciting all the “shalls” and “shall nots”.

Chairman Apodaca stated that this was their last meeting and proposed a calendar for the month of August in order to complete the task of the Charter Review.

Commissioner Einer proposed that they approach the Governing Body and request more time for the completion of the review. Chairman Apodaca stated that they could make the request and proposed a thirty (30) day extension. The Commission all agreed.

The Commission briefly discussed the need to get an attorney on board. Chairman Apodaca explained the process that needs to be taken to obtain an attorney and stated that he would meet with City Attorney Scott Aaron to get the process going.

Commission Clerk Darlene Arguello stated that the procurement process had already begun in obtaining an attorney and should have somebody on board by Friday, August 13, 2021.

Commissioner Matt Martinez will work on a to-do list as part of the organizational meeting and present it at the next meeting.

Special meetings were put on the calendar for the month of August and a request was made for the Commission to be placed on the agenda for the City Council Meeting on August 18, 2021 to request an extension on their deadline of September 1, 2021.

Commission Clerk Darlene Arguello will see about helping the Commission get on the agenda for the Council Meeting on August 18, 2021.

Adjournment

Chairman Apodaca entertained a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Einer made a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Matt Martinez seconded the motion.

Motion to adjourn passed.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55p.m.



Commission Chair Apodaca

8/17/2021

Date